REMARKS

Claims 1, 3, 4 and 6-8 are pending in the application and have been examined. Claims 2, 5, and 9-24 have been canceled. Claim 1 has been amended. The rejections are addressed below in the order raised by the Examiner.

Objection to the specification

The specification was objected to for referencing pending patent application USSN 09/361,652, and an updated status was requested. Applicants note that this application is still under examination and pending as of the date of this response. Applicants respectfully request that the objection be withdrawn upon indication of allowability of the claims.

Status of the claims

Claim 1 was amended to recite a G-protein alpha subunit polypeptide comprising greater than "90%" amino acid sequence identity to a polypeptide having a sequence of SEQ ID NO:2. This amendment adds no new matter. Support for this amendment can be found, e.g., in the specification on page 11, lines 15-18.

Claim 1 was also amended to recite that the G-protein alpha subunit polypeptide "is a subunit of a heterotrimeric G-protein which binds GTP." This amendment adds no new matter. Support for this amendment can be found, e.g., in the specification on page 10, lines 23-25.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph

Claims 1-4 and 6-8 were rejected as allegedly lacking enablement for reciting a G-protein alpha subunit polypeptide comprising greater than 70% amino acid sequence identity to a polypeptide having a sequence of SEQ ID NO:2. Applicants have amended the claims to recite that the claimed polypeptide have greater than "90%" identity to the reference sequence SEQ ID NO:2. Identification and use of polypeptides having 90% or greater percent identity to

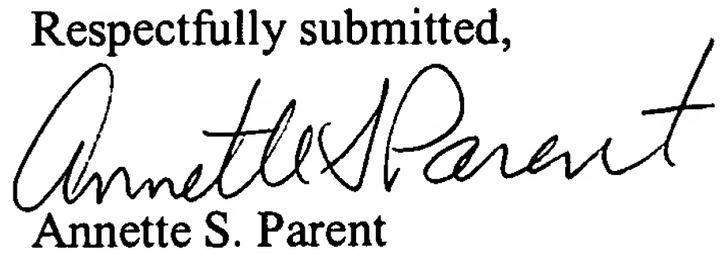
SEQ ID NO:2 is well within the abilities of one of skill in the art, with at most routine experimentation. The claims also have been amended to specify a functional element, in which the G-protein alpha subunit polypeptide "is a subunit of a heterotrimeric G-protein which binds GTP." The specification provides assays in which one of skill, with only routine experimentation, can determine operable embodiments of the invention, such as binding of radiolabeled GTP to the G-protein (*see, e.g.*, page10, lines 25-31, page 12, lines 6-14, page 12, line 27 to page 13, line 17, and pages 25-32. Applicants therefore respectfully request that the rejection be withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicants believe all claims now pending in this Application are in condition for allowance. The issuance of a formal Notice of Allowance at an early date is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner has any questions regarding Applicant's response, or if the Examiner believes that a telephone conference would expedite consideration of this matter in any way, please call the undersigned at 415-576-0200.

Respectfully submitted,



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